

Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Play Up Policy

Participants registering for Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department Youth Sports Programs are strongly recommended to register within their corresponding age group according to their chronological age as determined by the “cut-off” date. In the event that a parent or guardian feels that their child would benefit greatly from participating in a higher age division, which is not recommended, the department acknowledges the request and will accommodate the parent/guardian by approving the “Play Up” request for participants moving up by **1 year of age only**. The age will be calculated according to the age cut off date for that particular sport (Ex. The youth basketball cut-off date is the participant’s age as of January 1st in the program season).

Eligibility to submit “Play Up” requests:

Start Smart (Those players turning 4 prior to or on the cutoff date may submit requests)

5-6 Division (Those players turning 6 prior to or on the cutoff date may submit requests)

7-8 Division (Those players turning 8 prior to or on the cutoff date may submit requests)

9-10 Division (Those players turning 10 prior to or on the cutoff date may submit requests)

11-12 Division (Those players turning 12 prior to or on the cutoff date may submit requests)

13-14 Division (Those players turning 14 prior to or on the cutoff date may submit requests)

15-16 Division (Those players turning 16 prior to or on the cutoff date may submit requests)

In the event that a parent has requested for their child to “Play Up”, the parent/guardian must read, sign and email a **Release of Liability and Assumption of Risk Agreement** to the Youth Sports and Fitness Section at YouthSports@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov. or faxed the form may be faxed to (704) 335-3199

Please contact Youth Sports Development Staff at (980) 314-1116 if you have questions.

Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department “Play Up” Release of Liability and Assumption of Risk

Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department Youth Sports Leagues comprise various age divisions, in which players of similar ages, developmental levels and overall skill sets are grouped together to form teams and leagues. The primary concept is to create a safe, fun recreational experience, in which uniformity and consistency contribute to the overall best possible learning environment, thus fostering skill development. Participants registering in Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department Youth Sports Programs are strongly recommended to register within their corresponding age group according to their chronological age as determined by the “cut off” date. Before requesting for your child to “play up”, we urge you to deeply consider your child’s maturity, size, coordination, muscular development, attitude and social development levels in comparison with children in the age division you are considering asking your child to participate with. The request to allow the child to “play up” an age division directly conflicts with the recommendation put forth by the County, its professional staff and several other reputable professional organizations/agencies. By “playing up” your child will be participating with older children, who are typically larger or more physically developed, more mature and in most cases more aggressive.

In regards to the request for my child _____, to participate at
(Print child’s name)

_____ in _____ which is outside
the (Print recreation center/site name) (Sport – Age Division)

recommended and designed age division provided by Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department, I hereby acknowledge, appreciate and agree that:

- 1) The risk of injury, permanent paralysis/disability and or even death exists and becomes increasingly inherent in regard to this request, and while particular rules, equipment and personal discipline may reduce the risks, these risks do exist and;
- 2) I KNOWINGLY AND FREELY ASSUME ALL SUCH RISKS, both known and unknown, and assume full responsibility for my child’s participation; and,
- 3) I willingly agree to comply with the stated and customary terms and conditions of participation; and,
- 4) I, for myself and on behalf of my heirs, assigns, personal representatives and next of kin, HEREBY RELEASE AND HOLD HARMLESS Mecklenburg County, their officers, officials, agents, and/or employees, other participants, sponsoring agencies, sponsors, advertisers, and if applicable, owners and leasers of premises used to conduct said program/event, WITH RESPECT TO ANY AND ALL INJURY, DISABILITY, DEATH or loss or damage to person or property, WHETHER ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEE(S) OR OTHERWISE, to the fullest extent permitted by law.

I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK AGREEMENT, I FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS TERMS, I UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT, AND I SIGN IT FREELY AND VOLUNTARILY WITHOUT ANY INDUCEMENT.

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE

DATE